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Cristino NICOLAIDES
(Phonetic: neekoLYEdehs)

ARGENTINA

Commander in Chief, Army; Member, Ruling Junta (since 18 June 1982)

Addressed as:
General Nicolaides



MICRO
ONLY

Lt. Gen. Cristino Nicolaides is a conservative, uncompromising hardliner. A good friend of former President Leopoldo Galtieri's, he supported Galtieri's bid for power in 1981 and maintained a low profile when Galtieri decided to seize control of the Falkland Islands from Great Britain in April 1982. Nicolaides was critical of Galtieri's handling of the ensuing war, however, and rejected any kind of aid from the Soviet Union. After Argentina's defeat he joined other generals in disapproving Galtieri's plan to continue the war and thus helped to force his friend's resignation.

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Some military officers--both active and retired--oppose Nicolaides because they consider him unable to communicate effectively with political parties and trade unions. He is widely known to be suspicious of any trend toward allowing parties to participate in government. While serving as commander of III Corps in Córdoba in 1981, he quarreled with the Radical Civic Union party over what he interpreted as subversive statements on the part of some of its members.

Career

After graduating from the Argentine Military Academy as an engineer, Nicolaides received advanced training at the School of Engineering. He has served as a military attache to Paraguay and as director of the School of Services. During his tenure as commander of the 7th Infantry Brigade in 1977, he put a stop to terrorist activity in Corrientes. Nicolaides was chief of operations for the Army General Staff from 1978 until 1979 and then director of the Military Institutes through 1980. He was given command of the powerful I

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Corps in December 1981. He received his present rank
when he was appointed Commander in Chief of the Army.

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30 June 1982

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